

LIST OF CLAIMS / AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 19, and 20 as shown herein.

Claims 1-20 are pending and are listed following:

1. (Currently Amended) A ground rod cap, comprising:
a crown portion configured to receive a ground rod which can be used to establish a reference voltage, and to deflect a falling object away from the ground rod; and

a support portion connected to the crown portion, ~~wherein the crown portion is configured to receive a ground rod~~ the support portion configured to cover a ground rod clamp which can be attached to the ground rod.

2. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the crown portion includes:

an outer surface; and

a bottom surface, wherein the bottom surface defines a cavity configured to receive the ground rod.

3. (Original) The cap of claim 2, wherein the outer surface of the crown portion is curved.

4. (Original) The cap of claim 3, wherein the outer surface of the crown portion defines a dome.

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2 5. (Original) The cap of claim 2, wherein the cavity is
3 cylindrically-shaped.

4
5 6. (Original) The cap of claim 2, wherein:
6 the ground rod cap defines a first axis; and
7 the cavity defines a second axis, wherein the second axis is
8 coincident with the first axis.

9
10 7. (Original) The cap of claim 2, wherein the cavity has a
11 first end proximate the bottom surface of the crown portion and a second
12 end opposite the first end, and wherein the second end of the cavity is
13 positioned away from the outer surface of the crown portion by a distance
14 greater than or equal to a diameter associated with the cavity.

15
16 8. (Original) The cap of claim 2, wherein the bottom surface
17 of the crown portion defines a void that encircles the cavity.

18
19 9. (Original) The cap of claim 8, wherein the void is bounded
20 by a curved surface.
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1 10. (Original) The cap of claim 8, wherein:
2 the cap has a first maximum depth associated therewith; and
3 the void has a second maximum depth associated therewith, wherein
4 the first maximum depth is greater than the second maximum depth.

5
6 11. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the support portion
7 includes a curved wall having an inner surface and an outer surface.

8
9 12. (Original) The cap of claim 11, wherein the curved wall is
10 a continuously curving wall.

11
12 13. (Original) The cap of claim 11, wherein the curved wall
13 has a uniform thickness.

14
15 14. (Original) The cap of claim 11, wherein the inner surface
16 of the curved wall defines a cylinder.

17
18 15. (Original) The cap of claim 14, wherein the cylinder is
19 hollow.

20
21 16. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the crown portion
22 and the support portion are fabricated from a rubber-like material.

1 17. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the rubber-like
2 material is PVC plastic.

3
4 18. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the crown portion
5 and the support portion are integral.

6
7 19. (Currently Amended) A ground rod cap, comprising:
8 a closed end; and
9 an open end opposite the closed end, ~~wherein the ground rod cap~~
10 ~~defines a void that encircles a cavity configured to receive a ground rod;~~
11 an outer surface;
12 an inner surface; and
13 a ground rod receptacle within the ground rod cap which protrudes
14 towards the open end of the ground rod cap and is defined by the inner
15 surface of the ground rod cap, the ground rod receptacle defining a central
16 cavity within the ground rod receptacle to receive a ground rod, the ground
17 rod receptacle further defining curved side surfaces which are surrounded
18 by a cylindrical void within the ground rod cap.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A ground rod cap, comprising:

2 a crown portion including:

3 an outer surface which is curved to define a dome having a
4 closed first end and an open second end;

5 an inner surface;

6 a ground rod receptacle which protrudes towards the open
7 second end of the crown portion and is defined by the inner surface of the
8 crown portion, the ground rod receptacle defining a central cavity within
9 the ground rod receptacle to receive a ground rod, the ground rod receptacle
10 further defining curved side surfaces which are surrounded by a cylindrical
11 void within the crown portion, wherein the cylindrical void facilitates
12 deformation of the dome when an object strikes the ground rod cap to
13 deflect the object away from the ground rod; and

14 ~~a support portion connected to the crown portion, wherein the crown~~
15 ~~portion includes means for redirecting energy associated with a collision~~
16 ~~with the ground rod cap including a cylindrical wall connected to and~~
17 ~~extending from the open second end of the crown portion to define a~~
18 ~~hollow cylindrical opening configured to cover a ground rod clamp for~~
19 ~~attaching a ground wire to the ground rod.~~